

Bandits kill chief imam, 17 others in Katsina

By Bashir Bello

KATSINA—BARELY 48 hours after President Muhammadu Buhari ordered troops in the fight against bandits not to spare criminals, bandits killed no fewer than 18 persons, including a chief imam, in a fresh attack launched on four villages in three local government areas of Katsina State, yesterday.

Community sources in Danmusa Local Government Area said 14 persons were killed—11 in Dantakuri village and three, including the Chief Imam and two others, in Barza village—while in Jibia council, four persons were killed in Tsayu village.

In Safana, four women including a mother-in-law of the state's immediate past Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Abdulkadir Zakka, were kidnapped in Zakka village.

This came as the Katsina State Police Command confirmed deaths in Jibia, while it could not confirm the remaining 14 killed in Danmusa and the attack on Safana at press time.

A source in Danmusa said the gunmen invaded the villages on Sunday night and killed their victims, leaving the villagers in fear.

According to the source, "in continuation of the series of attacks meted on the people by gunmen, yesterday (Sunday) night, they invaded Dantakuri village in Danmusa Local Government, where they killed 11 persons and injured several others.

"They later proceeded to Barza village where they killed the Chief Imam of the village and two others. The

development has created panic and fear among the people of the area."

Three corpses from the four killed in Jibia were brought to the palace of the Emir of Katsina, Dr. Abdulmumini Usman, in protest over the continuous attacks and killings, but the protesters did not meet the Emir as he was said to be out of the state.

Katsina State Police Command, through its spokesperson, Anas Gezawa, confirmed that four persons

were killed in Tsayu village of Jibia.

Gezawa, in a statement, said: "DPO of Jibiya indicated that on Sunday at about 3:30p.m., a group of armed bandits invaded Tsayu village of Jibiya council and carted away four cows.

"The villages mobilised and followed the bandits into the forest, ostensibly to recover the cows. The bandits killed four of the villagers and escaped into the thick and hilly mountainous forest."

'I was gang-raped by 3 cultists because I refused to date one of them'

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE—A first year student of Environmental Health, Technical Department of Ondo State government-owned School of Health Technology, Akure, yesterday, narrated how a cult member, whose love advances she turned down, connived with two others to gang-rape her.

She was allegedly raped last Wednesday at her boyfriend's residence.

The suspects reportedly trailed the victim to her boyfriend's residence at Oda Road, Akure, and after they confirmed that her boyfriend was not at home, descended on her.

The suspects, identified as Aderoboye Damilola, Eyitayo Charles and Blessing Michael, have been arrested by men of Special Anti-Robbery Squad, SARS, of the state Police Command.

The victim (names withheld) told newsmen that "the three boys forced their way into the

room and raped me one after the other. When they entered into the room, they asked me to take off my dress and lie on the bed.

"I begged them to please leave me alone, but they refused. They asked one of them to forcefully undress me and the three of them raped me. They even threatened that they had the recordings and would upload the videos on social media if I tell anyone.

"I could not keep the trauma to myself and had to tell one of my friends in confidence, who reported the issue to the Police and the boys were tracked and arrested.

"I knew one of them (Eyitayo) who had once asked me out, but I declined his request. I have to speak out now because I cannot keep it to myself and I really want justice. Those boys really took advantage of me."

Vanguard gathered that the case had been transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department of the command for further investigation.